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Foggy Bottom News

February 1998

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 40 No. 4

Health & Wellness Center Wins Approval

On January 7 the Board of Zoning Adjustment voted to approve the special exception application of George Washington University to build its health and wellness facility at 2301 G Street, N.W. The Board ordered that only students, faculty and staff of the Foggy Bottom campus be allowed to use the facility, cutting out alumni and several other groups, and that the closing hour during the week be changed to 10:00 p.m. (Sunday at 8:00 p.m.) rather than the 1:00 a.m. in the application.

The university first applied for approval of the building in early 1994, the case was heard in June and September, and the application was denied. A number of applications, motions and requests were subsequently filed, finally resulting in the latest hearings and meetings held on October 1, October 15, December 3, December 17, and January 7.

FBA's Past President Chris Lamb worked hard on this project for several years, and current FBA Board Member Jim McLeod prepared testimony and questioned the applicants during the most recent round of hearings. While the outcome was not what many in the community desired, the shortened hours, decrease in building size, and distancing from the fragile St. Mary's Church are welcome changes from the original proposal.

UPDATE

21st & L Townhouse Closes

The Safeway Townhouse grocery store at 21st and L Street has been closed and is being replaced by a CVS, depriving many residents easy access to a regular supermarket.

Rumors of the proposed closing surfaced in late October, but were not confirmed by Safeway, CVS or the building's management. Only after the lease had been signed by CVS did any of the companies acknowledge it to customers, FBA officers or even to Councilmember Jack Evans' staff.

The store closed in late December, and CVS will occupy the space it formerly occupied. The adjacent Down-

town Cleaners also lost its lease. According to Holly Davis, a representative of the building owner, CVS plans an expanded outlet, and may close one or more of their stores located within two or three blocks.

A Safeway spokesman involved in its real estate division told the *News* that the company is looking for land on which to build a store, to enable them to have a store to suit, and because locating a grocery store in an existing building presents many unique problems.

Ms. Davis also advised the *News* that they had contacted other grocery establishments but none was interested in the

Dr. Haywood Speaks at January Meeting

The guest speaker for the January FBA meeting will be Yolanda Haywood, M.D., a member of GWU's Emergency Medicine team and expert in the subject of domestic violence. Dr. Haywood was the subject of a lengthy article in *Washingtonian Magazine*, which detailed her travels from being a battered 22-year-old welfare mother of three to a successful physician and educator on domestic violence. Board certified in emergency medicine, she is Director of the Violence Initiative at GW's Ronald Reagan Institute of Emergency Medicine.

space. She also said the owner had wanted Safeway to make "improvements," especially in the back-of-the-store operations; Safeway advised that the owner requested the store become a gourmet-type operation while Safeway of

(Continued on page 4)

Council to Vote on Comp Plan

Markup sessions and a vote on Comprehensive Plan amendments are scheduled for sometime during the month of February. **Very few Council deliberations or votes can match the adoption of this plan in importance to Foggy Bottom's future.**

A major factor in our area's future is the impact on FB of George Washington University, and specifically its economic impact on the neighborhood and the city as a whole. The existing Ward 2 section of the Comprehensive Plan contains wording designed to protect this residential neighborhood, but the language is far from strong. An additional difficulty is that the Board of Zoning Adjustment, which administers the use of land by universities, takes the view that they are not governed by provisions of the Ward 2 section.

Language Would Gut Protections

During the formulation of the draft amendments now before the Council, GWU persuaded the Office of Planning to propose language that guts the existing small protections and effectively leaves the whole process of campus plans to the BZA. However, it provides the latter with no policy guidelines on how to treat universities' land use, giving the BZA complete discretion.

ANC-2A's Resolution opposes this aspect of D.C. Council Bill 12-99. It proposes new language that restores and strengthens the protection of our residential community and the city as a whole. In particular, ANC-2A proposes that (1) a full study be made of the impact of universities on D.C.'s difficult financial position, including that arising from full-

(Continued on page 8)

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speaker:

Yolanda Haywood, M.D.
Director, Violence Initiative, GW Ronald Reagan Institute of Emergency Medicine

Monday, January 26, 1998
Wyndham Bristol Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
7:30 p.m.

(Next Meeting, Monday, February 23, 1998)



The Becker Beat



1. The January Speaker

The speaker at the January FBA meeting presents a change from our standard fare of political and government representatives. Dr. Haywood won't get us a new traffic light, or fix the potholes, but she can broaden our outlook on a serious problem in today's world. I believe her presentation will be both interesting and thought-provoking.

2. D.C. Population Drop and the Comprehensive Plan

You all saw it on the front of the *Post*: D.C.'s population is the lowest since the Depression, and the city lost over 10,000 residents in 1997. It's scary, and shows no sign of abating.

I have no access to the precise figures for our neighborhood, but we know that Foggy Bottom and West End are losing non-student residents right and left. The article specified that "the number of householders between 1990 and 1996 . . . decreased most in Foggy Bottom, Dupont Circle, Southwest Washington and upper Anacostia."

Westy Byrd, a Georgetown activist well known in our area, was quoted. Her comment was, in our opinion, right on! "The District Government does not pay attention to the quality of life in the neighborhoods, and until it does, it's going to continue to lose residents."

We who live in one of its endangered residential neighborhoods plead our case and long for support from both elected and appointed officials. And unfortunately, often they don't seem to hear.

The City Council will have a superb opportunity very soon, probably in February, to show us that they hear and they want us to stay.

That opportunity is called the Comprehensive Plan. We need to have language protective of residential areas retained in that plan, despite efforts to delete, soften or plain amend away those protect-

ions. Council sessions known as markups may be held in February, following hearings last fall when the FBA and the ANC testified, asking that weakening amendments suggested by GWU and others not be enacted. Another article in this issue goes into greater detail.

Let the Council know we need support to keep Foggy Bottom a livable place. As I said in my testimony before the Council:

— "Take measures to beef up residential protections in the plan and also push for stronger implementation of the plan;

— "As you demand more downtown housing, remember the near-to-downtown communities which now exist but are in terrible danger; and

— "Do whatever is possible to encourage the university to control its size and expansion.

— "Foggy Bottom is a wonderful, livable and tax-paying neighborhood; if you allow it to become a de facto dormitory it will be of no benefit to our city."

Be at those markup sessions if you can, to see for yourself how Ward 2's Jack Evans votes on residential protections, as well as the other city-wide-elected Councilmembers—Linda Cropp, Harold Brazil, Hilda Mason, Carole Schwartz and David Catania.

Call 337-5528 if you would like to be alerted to the markup session schedule.

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Oral Lee Francis

Oral Lee Francis, retired manager of the Elise Apartments on New Hampshire Avenue, died in November at the age of 90. Francis retired in 1976 after 18 years at the Elise.

Delores Rechel

Delores Rechel, who resided at 904 New Hampshire Avenue, died in September after suffering a stroke. She had lived there for many years, along with her husband who died some years ago.

St. Mary's Court To Be On Camera

On Thursday, December 18, St. Mary's Court hosted its annual community Christmas Party for residents, their families and its many friends in Foggy Bottom and throughout the city. As expected, it was a gala event with Eddie McDermon and his band; a bountiful "spread" of holiday fare; and Santa Claus in the person of Jack Evans, our Council member, and his associate, June Hirsch, as Santa's helper. Gifts were distributed, songs were sung, and the whole event was recorded on a camcorder generously given to the Court by Mary Healy. The camcorder will provide a record of all the many important parties, events and meetings held at St. Mary's Court. Thank you, Mary! St. Mary's Court also thanks all of its many community friends for their presence, their generosity and their involvement in so many of the activities at St. Mary's Court.



Foggy Bottom News

February 1998

Volume 40, No. 4

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor Ellie Becker
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin

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Prayer Over Empty Beer Cans Discarded on the Sidewalk

"Lord, please be with whoever left these cans. If they drank from sorrow, heal their hurt. If they drank to escape, help them to face their difficulty. If they were simply careless, help them and all of us to remember our duty to preserve the beauty of your creation. Help all of us to celebrate the right things, to enjoy life fully but wisely."

Jim Auer, in Prayer Notes from Abbey Press

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News from 2D

(2nd District,
Metropolitan Police)

Trippi to Head 2D Detectives

Lt. Joseph Trippi has been reassigned from his post as head of the patrol officers of PSA 207 to Lt. in charge of the detectives and vice officers for the Second District. He fills the post left vacant

clothes in the past, the new assignment will entail some heavy clothing shopping. He told the *News* that the move will be good for his career, but he will sorely miss the constant community contacts and some community policing projects initiated but not completed during the past year. Commander Barnes, who heads the Second District, has asked him to continue working on at least



earlier this year by the transfer of Lt. Russell Nizer to the detective staff at police headquarters.

A previous assignment as a vice officer will be an advantage in the new post.

Trippi, whose new phone number is 282-0043, will continue to work out of Second District headquarters.

According to Captain Shannon Cockett, Sgt. Bob Panizari is now Acting Lieutenant for PSA 207.

The change was made on January 8 and took place immediately. Among the changes for Trippi will be wardrobe, as he goes from uniform to a suit and tie. Because he has been in either uniform or very casual plain

one of those projects, establishment of a small station in the neighborhood.

Trippi stated he was very happy with the assignment in PSA 207, but readily accepted the new post. He will be missed, as he will no longer patrol our area on a regular basis, but will be around and available when needed.



Community Meetings Jan. 28 & 29

Community meetings for Police Service Area 207 and 208 have been scheduled for the last week in January. On Wednesday, January 28,

208's team leader Sgt. John Rucker will host that area's meeting at United Church, 20th & G, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 29, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., it will be the turn of PSA 207's team leader, Sgt. Robert Panizari. The meetings provide an opportunity to meet and greet the officers in the PSA, to receive crime prevention tips and pamphlets, and to ask questions of the officers assigned to our area. Refreshments will be available at both meetings.

Crime Continues to Decrease

Information on crime in November and December is as follows: PSA 207 (west of 22nd Street) experienced 1 robbery, 1 assault, 5 burglaries, 20 thefts, 17 thefts from auto, and 2 stolen autos during November. The total of 46 offenses compares with 57 in October and 78 in November, 1996. In December there were 2 robberies, 6 burglaries, 18 thefts, 21 thefts from auto, and 2 stolen autos. The total of 49 offenses is slightly higher than November, but down from last December's total of 70.

PSA 208 saw 9 robberies, 3 assaults, 12 burglaries, 29 thefts, 20 thefts from auto, and 1 stolen auto in November, for a total of 74 offenses (compared to 128 in November, 1996). In December there were 5 robberies, 5 assaults, 11 burglaries, 30 thefts, 25 thefts from auto, and 8 stolen autos. The total of 84 showed an increase from November but a decrease from last December's 111 offenses.

The 7-11: Good Results Come With Perseverance

by Maria Tyler,
Commissioner ANC 2A03

As most readers know, the 7-11 store at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and 24th Street is in our Foggy Bottom Historic District (FBHD), a residential neighborhood zoned R-3. A special exception is required to operate a business in this zoning category. The special exception granted to the 7-11 in 1992 expired on September 2, 1997 and a new special exception was required.

In the past the community had many problems with the adverse impact of the 7-11 on our residential community--loitering, illegal parking and dangers to pedestrians, trash, unsightly premises, etc. In addition, problems were compounded by time-consuming negotiations relating to the installation of a handicapped entrance ramp in a manner that would not conflict with the historic century-old building which the 7-11 uses.

However, under the umbrella of a Management Agreement with ANC-2A which was incorporated in the previous BZA Order, and the conditions governing approval by the Historic Preservation Review Board of the handicapped entrance, ANC-2A has worked productively with the Market Manager of Southland Corporation (the 7-11 parent company), who had a responsive and cooperative approach in solving many of the

problems. Some results of the cooperation are the removal of the two exterior public telephones from the walls of the building, which had encouraged loitering, the installation of the handicapped entrance attractively shielded with shrubs and other plantings that are well maintained, fewer parking and traffic problems and a generally cleaner appearance of the premises and its surroundings. Some problems remain but the basis for solving them is in place.

When the time approached for the new application for BZA approval, ANC-2A worked with the Market Manager of Southlands Corporation to decide on a new Management Agreement. This was jointly decided upon before the date of the BZA hearing. Therefore, at the hearing, ANC-2A supported the 7-11, subject to the acceptance of the Management Agreement and a three-year time limit for the special exception. The BZA complimented ANC-2A for its reasonable and well-balanced Resolution and granted the special exception by a Bench Decision at the public hearing, incorporating the 3-year time limit and the Management Agreement requested by ANC-2A. The BZA Order was subsequently issued on November 12, 1997.

Thus the basis for cooperation between residents and the 7-11 continues under the renewed BZA special exception. The 7-11 case offers an excellent example of how perseverance and hard work as well as a cooperative attitude by a nonresidential institution in our neighborhood can bring about positive results.

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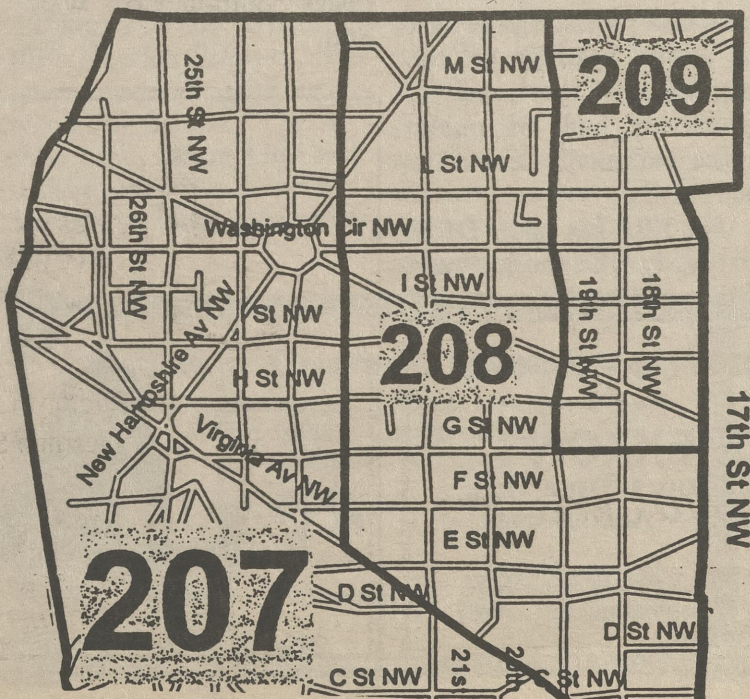
WEEKEND GETAWAYS

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---------|
| Sun. Feb. 1 | Cozy Inn Rest. & Shops | |
| (snow day 2/8) | Bountiful luncheon, & time to browse. | |
| | (Md. 10am- 5pm) | \$39* |
| Sat. Mar. 7 | Phila. Flower Show (7:30-8pm) | \$62** |
| Sun. Mar. 8 | Sandy Duncan | |
| | (song & dance show-stoppers from B'way) | |
| | (Balt. 1pm-6pm) (orch. seats) | \$ 60** |
| Sat. Apr. 4 | Masters of Light: Dutch Painters (guided) | |
| | & Monet: Later Work | |
| | (Balt. 8:30am-5:30pm) | \$34** |

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Foggy Bottom Hist. Dist.

(Update from page 1)

ficials felt a regular store was a better fit for its customers.

A large number of residents, especially from north of L Street, came to the November FBA meeting to exchange information and air their feelings on the subject. Notices had been placed in their apartment buildings advising that city officials would be there. While the FBA was unaware of any such arrangements, considerable time was allowed at the meeting for discussion, and a committee of volunteers was formed to work on the matter.

The FBA has looked into alternatives for the shopping needs of nearby residents, especially the seniors. Several suggestions:

1. The Federal Market, the grocery store closest to the former Safeway store, does carry meat and produce as well as other groceries, and has two delivery methods. It is located on 23rd Street just north of M Street. Phone: 293-5773.

The other close-by market is Metro Food Market, at 2130 P Street, which is also willing to deliver. Phone: 833-3720.

2. The D.C. Office of Aging will provide a bus for weekly shopping trips if 12 or more seniors travel from the same location. If residents of a large building or several adjacent buildings band together, that might be one solution.

3. IONA Senior Services has a bus which may be used to help clients shop for groceries. Discount coupons for taxi rides also can be obtained from IONA, with the discount percentage depending on income, running from 10% to 90%. IONA's phone is 966-1055.

4. Most seniors probably know about Meals on Wheels which are available for a fee during the week. IONA also makes a two-meal delivery on

Saturdays to supplement Meals on Wheels.

In addition, Councilmember Jack Evans' office is arranging a meeting with interested residents and representatives of a group of Korean-American grocers to explore possibilities for store openings in the area.

Whitehurst Freeway

The work on the Whitehurst Freeway has shifted from the south side of the road to the north, moving traffic but not changing the pattern. Three traffic lanes remain between 25th and 27th Streets; two lanes run eastbound or westbound, depending on the time of day.

West of 27th, on the elevated part of the freeway, traffic patterns remain the same: one way eastbound from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m., one way westbound from 2:30 to 9:30 p.m.

A handicap-accessible ramp from the 900 block of 26th Street is being installed to provide access to the sidewalk running along the south side of K Street toward Georgetown. Completion of the entire project is scheduled for later this year.

Other Traffic-Related Matters

The Columbia Plaza Tenants Association has requested removal of the bus shelter located recently at the corner of 23rd & E Streets, N.W. They claim it is not needed because virtually no one waits there to board buses, and because its walls are not see-through, it presents a safety hazard. The group wrote to Public Works' Director Cell Bernardino also protesting the lack of public hearings on the placement of these shelters which are built on public space and heavily devoted to advertising.

The FBA has asked DPW to study the no-left-turn policy at 27th Street for cars

traveling east on Virginia Avenue, as well as questioning the safety of eastbound traffic turning left at the median break just east of Rock Creek Parkway. FBA President Ellie Becker stated it seemed safer to have left turns at a signal intersection. Left turns are common for cars wishing to enter Eye Street and proceed to the Potomac River Freeway and Roosevelt Bridge.

ANC-2A Developments

At its November meeting, the Foggy Bottom/West End ANC received the resignation of Commissioner Michael Geroe, who has moved to Maryland. Candidates for the vacant position in Single Member District 2A02 will face an election of voters in that SMD at the ANC meeting in February. SMD 2A02's area is between Pennsylvania Avenue and N Street, from Rock Creek Park to 19th Street. Call 659-0011 for information.

At press time, Richard Price of the Westbridge and Nadia Taran of the Gibson are candidates for the post.

At that meeting the ANC also voted 5-0 to continue opposition to the construction of any new Canal Road entrance schemes for the Georgetown University campus. A major point of opposition concerned the traffic studies which did not include an area stretching to 27th and K Streets, as requested by the city; the changes envisioned by the entrance schemes would have an effect on traffic on the Whitehurst Freeway, K Street and M Street, heavily impacting Foggy Bottom and West End.

To Celebrate Our 40th Year . . . Forty Foggy Bottom Facts, Part III

Obviously, Foggy Bottom is on the river and the water. We have the Watergate, recalling the Water Gate Inn of popover and other fabulous food fame, as well as the dear departed Watergate amphitheater of pre-jet plane, band concert and Gilbert & Sullivan days. The Riverside Towers and Riverside Drive remind us that we were home to Riverside Stadium, site of hockey games in the 1940s,

and the River Side Riding Academy.

Ceremonies marking the centennial of St. Stephen Martyr Church in 1967 included one of the most well-known Catholic preachers in the U.S. That speaker was the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, D.D., the Bishop of Rochester and featured on radio and television for many years.

FB/WE Endorses Catania in December Election

Although the voter turnout for the special election in December was quite low, the FB/WE voters in all three precincts gave their nod to Republican David Catania. In Precinct 2 Catania received 27 of the 52 votes cast, in Precinct 3 the vote was 192 of 324 cast, and Precinct 4 voted him 89 of 132 cast, for a total of 308 of the 508 votes cast. The turnout percentage was highest in Ward 3 with 13.8% voting; our Ward 2 was second with 7.9%. (These figures do not reflect absentee or special ballots.)

Waterfront Park Pack Signed

In December an agreement was signed for establishment of a waterfront park along the Georgetown waterfront from Rock Creek Park to Key Bridge. Included in the plans, for which a park commission must raise \$8.5 million, are a promenade, a floating dock, a new boathouse, and a new bike path. Honorary trustees for the project include Councilmember Jack Evans, FB

resident Bob Dole, and GWU President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

29th & K Smokestack Plan Dropped

A plan by the General Services Administration to raise the height of the West smokestack at 29th & K and continue the use of coal as a fuel has been abandoned. The proposal was opposed by both Foggy Bottom and Georgetown residents and businesses, and GSA "determined that raising the stacks . . . will have an adverse effect on historic elements" of the city. The West plant will be limited to emergency use only and will burn only natural gas. The frequent truck delivery of coal will no longer be necessary.

A group of FB residents, especially several in both the Potomac Overlook and Westbridge buildings, worked over a period of several years to prevent the proposal, along with the Kennedy Center, citizens' and business groups in Georgetown, and the National Capital Planning Commission.

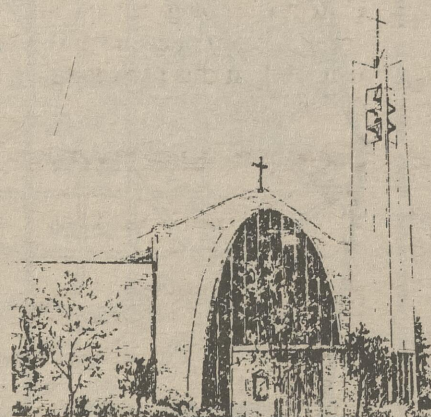
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Group Discusses Great Books at WEL

The West End Library plays host to a lively Great Books discussion every month. Moderator Tom Mann, a librarian at the Library of Congress, leads the sessions, which are held on the first Tuesday of every month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the upstairs conference room. About 18 "regulars" attend, although because of personal schedules, vacations, or travels, any given meeting usually has about a dozen participants. The group is following the set of readings published by the Great Books Foundation in Chicago; each meeting is devoted to a different work. In recent months they've tackled selections from Gibbon, Weber, and Schopenhauer, as well as plays by Euripides and Moliere. Future discussions will focus on works by John Stuart Mill, George Bernard Shaw, St. Augustine, Plato, and Montaigne. "We just try to approach the readings as intelligent adults, without any academic theories to advance or turfs to defend," says Mann, "They offer us an opportunity to bring our own experiences to bear on very important questions in life, and to compare our own views not just with those of the writers, but with the other people at the table. It's a lot more satisfying than the usual run of office conversation. And the group is pretty lively, with people who really do have different perspectives on life. Even when we have major disagreements, though, most of us go for a nice drink afterwards—usually at the West End Cafe nearby." New members are always welcome, either as regulars or just occasional participants. For further information, call Tom Mann at 202-833-1749 or Mary Lou Hennessy at 202-333-1835.

"Sweetheart" Deals at Valentine Book Clearance

A Valentine's Day used book clearance will be held at the West End Library on Saturday, February 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by the West End Library Friends, a "heart-y" supply of both hardcovers and paperbacks will be sold at bargain prices. Hardcovers will go for 50¢ and paperbacks for 20¢. Subject matter and selection are wide and varied, including, of course, books appropriate to the day—romances.

National Musical Arts Concerts Resume

The National Academy of Sciences' season of free concerts continues on Sunday, February 8, with the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra performing at 2:00 p.m. It will be followed on Saturday, February 21, by a 5:00 p.m. performance by soprano Carmen Balthrop. The concerts are held at the NAS Auditorium at 2100 C Street, N.W.

The Marine Chamber group will perform David Sampson's "Reflections on a Dance"; Robert Kruka's "The Good Soldier Schweik Suite"; Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings"; and Philip Glass' "Symphony #3 for String Orchestra." Carmen Balthrop, who will be accompanied by Bradley Moore on piano and a choir, will perform songs of color celebrating African American History Month.

Skating Comes to Waterfront

A new ice rink has been opened on the Georgetown waterfront on K Street at the base of Wisconsin Avenue. It opened in December and will remain open until St. Patrick's Day. According to Annmarie Swope, sessions of

Invitation from a Proud Georgian

Nino Japaridze, a resident of FB's Eye Street, is a citizen of the Caucasian Republic of Georgia. Her national pride prompts this personal invitation to her neighbors and friends to two special events which will depict the "history, beauty, vibrance and hope of the people and culture of Georgia."

On Saturday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m., a Georgian Orthodox liturgy will take place in St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 36th & Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The occasion is a special one, the feast of St. Nino's Day! It will be followed by at 4:00 p.m. performance by a world-renowned Georgian dance company at the Kennedy Center. Tickets for the performance may be purchased at the Kennedy Center box office.

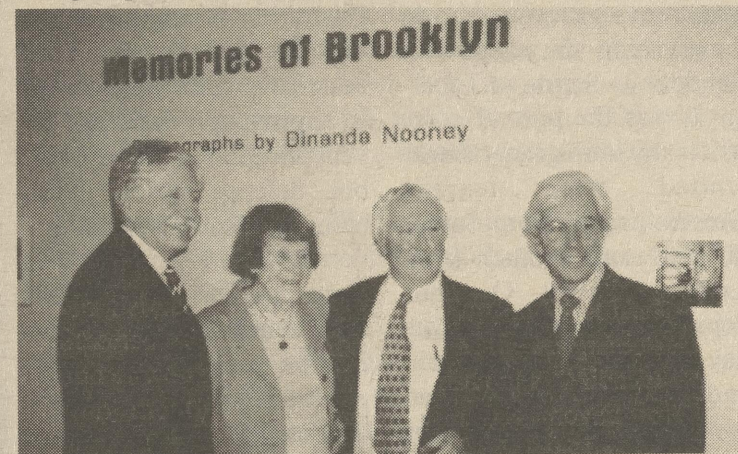
one and a half hours are held Sunday to Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Thursday to Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children under 12, and skates can be rented for \$2.50. Call 800-790-3646, ext. 1113 for information.

Heurich House on "America's Castles"

The Heurich House, home to the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., was one of three buildings featured in a December segment of "America's Castles" on the Arts and Entertainment Network. Also featured in "Capital City Castles" was Anderson House and Tudor Place. The house, formerly the home of the owners of FB's Heurich Brewery, is a museum as well as the Society's headquarters. The architectural, biographical and social history of each home is featured on this highly-rated series.

Dinanda Nooney Honored at William and Mary College

Foggy Bottom resident Dinanda Nooney was honored at a lecture and reception November 7 at the Muscarelle Museum of Art of William and Mary College in Williamsburg at the opening of "Memories of Brooklyn," an exhibit of her photographs. As the Museum's *Newsletter* put it, "Nooney's photographs, taken in 1978 and 1979, give us a rare glimpse of the interiors of homes in different Brooklyn



Shown at the Nooney exhibit are Timothy J. Sullivan, President of William and Mary College; Dinanda H. Nooney; Thomas Heacox, William and Mary professor; and Jerry L. Thompson, retired Yale professor.

neighborhoods. They give new insight as to why 2.3 million people find Brooklyn a special place to live."

Ms. Nooney's photographs form part of the permanent collection of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles and of the New York Public Library.

The November 7 reception was preceded by a lecture on Ms. Nooney's work given by Jerry L. Thompson, photographer and retired Assistant Professor at Yale. A dinner followed the reception. Numerous of Ms. Nooney's family and friends attended the events, some coming from as far away as Germany. Those attending from Washington included Morella Hansen, Grace Watson, Bob and Mary Brewster, and Burt and Ruth Knauff.

Guy Mason Offers Winter/Spring Classes

Registration for classes at the Guy Mason Recreation Center are being taken until the start of classes the week of February 9. The center, at Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street on the Friendship (Line 30, etc.) bus, is the closest and most convenient for FB residents. Included are Dancersize, qui gong, yoga, Jacki's aerobic workout, soft aerobics and self defense/karate. Budding artists may take copper enameling, pottery, china

painting and art, and linguists may choose Spanish or English as a second language. There is also a retirees club, chess classes, bridge games and ballroom dancing. For information call Vincent Cain or Caryl King at 282-2180. They will also welcome suggestions for other classes to offer.

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Rennie Remembers Ellis Island

by Rennie Melonson

In November I went on another Smithsonian overnight bus trip to New York City, this time to explore the Ellis Island Immigration Museum—gateway to America, in the shadow of the famous Statue of Liberty. It was the port of entry where my immigrant parents landed after leaving Greece—father from Samos in 1909 and mother from Lesbos in 1919. Our bus departed on a dreary Saturday morning (torrential rain and very windy) and arrived at the Main Building on Ellis Island via the Holland Tunnel/New Jersey about 11:30 a.m. Our bus was allowed to be driven to the rear of the Main Building on a bridge not accessible to the general public. There, we were met by a Park Ranger, who led us to a small room for a lecture about Ellis Island's origin and its 8-year restoration (completed in late 1990) at a cost of \$170 million funded by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and run by the National Park Service. It is the largest restoration of its kind in U.S. history.

Samuel Ellis had been the island's last private owner (in the 1770s). It was known as Oyster Island during the Dutch and English colonial

periods: a sandy island that was developed into a hanging site for pirates; a harbor fort; ammunition and ordinance depot (Fort Gibson); and, finally, an immigration station. In 1808 the New York State government purchased it, approving it as the site for a fortification in the new harbor defense system. But, before it became an immigration center, i.e. prior to 1892, eight million immigrants from northern and western Europe came through what was then known as "Castle Garden." Between 1885 and 1890, 70% of all immigrants had landed at Castle Garden, originally a 50-year-old fort called Castle Clinton, created in 1811 and renamed Castle Garden in 1822; it was closed in 1890. It later became a municipal aquarium in 1896; due to construction of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel it was closed in 1940 (it's been a monument since 1946). In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison designated Ellis Island as one of the federally-operated immigration stations. It burned down six months later, was rebuilt and fireproofed by 1900.

The Ellis Island Immigration Station was created for many reasons; people (mostly from Europe) wanted to



escape poverty, religious persecution, political unrest and to gain freedom and opportunity. Originally, Ellis Island was three acres, then was expanded to 27½ acres with 35 buildings. After 1924, the quotas changed, and there was no need for it. It became a detention and deportation center for undesirable aliens; a hospital in both WWI and WWII; and a training facility for the U.S. Coast Guard. According to immigration records, Ellis Island opened in 1892 and closed in 1954, having processed 12 million immigrants! However, in May 1965, President Lyndon Johnson realized the unity of both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and had Ellis Island included in the care of the National Park Service.

The Building "A Transformation"

Entering from the back entrance of this huge (100,000 sq. ft.) red-brick and limestone museum (Main Building) was quite a sight to behold. I immediately recalled its dilapidated condition, when I had walked through it in 1985—what a transformation! (I'm certain it didn't look as inviting when my parents and thousands of other immigrants were led into this entrance, after being ferried from their ships.) After lunch in a private room, we were taken on a short tour with our tour leader, Steve Forman, and the Park Ranger. On display in the middle section of the first floor (the former "Baggage Room") are neatly-arranged old/quaint baggage and trunks donated by former immigrants. There are also exhibits, two theatres, a Learning Center, a Student Orientation Center, a small cafeteria, restrooms, a gift shop and an Information Desk. A computer data bank, located near the stairs, is available to anyone wanting to check listings of immigrants' names that appear outside on "The Wall of Honor." (I was anxious to look for my family's name on the computer, rather than

venturing outside in the miserable weather to see it on the Wall (500,000 names are already on it!).

Perhaps many people have not yet had their family's name registered. Well, it is easy to do: Years ago, Lee Iacocca (head of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.) issued applications (\$100 donation) to whoever wished to have their family's name registered and placed on the proposed Wall, and also receive an "Official Certificate of Registration" for framing. If anyone wishes to register, write to "The Wall of Honor," Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York, NY 10017-3898.

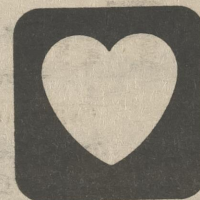
Third Class Went to Ellis

Not all of the passengers had to disembark for examination at Ellis Island; first and second class passengers were processed on board their ships and were allowed to go on to their destinations or be met by friends/family at the dock. Third class ("steerage class") passengers had to undergo medical/legal examinations (with interpreters, most likely) in the "Great Hall" (Registry Room) on the second floor of the Main Building before being allowed to go on their own or, regrettably, to be rejected and sent back to their homeland. After much scrutiny and examination, those who were pinned with code letters signifying disease, mental condition or some other disability, were either sent

back to their country or kept in one of the island's hospitals for further examination and/or treatment. When purchasing boat tickets in their homelands, the steerage class passengers were subjected to paying round-trip fares by the shipping lines, who must have known that most would not be returning to their home countries (the shipping lines reaped profits galore from such unfair dealings and, actually, only about 2% returned to their countries). Those accepted were assisted with regard to exchanging foreign monies for U.S. dollars and in purchasing necessary railroad tickets for their U.S. destinations.

Exhibits in the east and west wings display "The Peak Immigration Years" and "Through America's Gate." There are hard wooden benches (similar to what immigrants had to sit on for hours waiting to be called to the front desk clerk). About 5,000 people a day were processed here in three to five hours. (One can only imagine what they must have endured on the crowded and unsanitary ships during their long uncomfortable journeys, and then were subjected to this sort of scrutiny. Sad to admit that I never heard any discussion of such experiences by my parents, nor did I ever think of inquiring.)

(Continued next month.)



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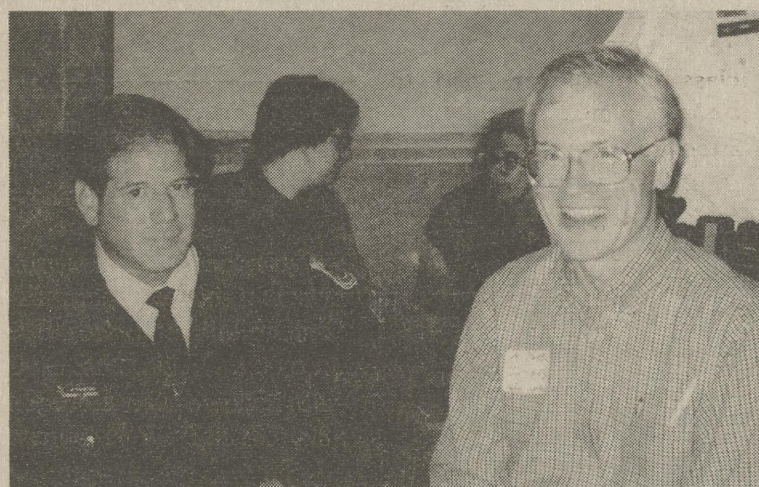
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Foggy Bottom Faces

(with apologies for not having names to go with some faces)



Photos by: Kirsten Olsen and John Graves.

At the November FBA party: FBA President Ellie Becker and Treasurer and party chairman Matt Hall; four smiling partygoers; PSA 207 team leader Sgt. Bob Panizari and FBA Vice President Michael Thomas; Loretta and Harold Jones of Foggy Bottom Mews with Ellie Becker; Mary Richter of Zuki Moon restaurant, location of the party; and two distinguished party guests from Columbia Plaza. Kirsten Olsen poses with a seasonally-dressed friend at the St. Mary's Court Christmas party.

Correction: The photo caption in the last issue showing the Natural Day Care kids on Halloween incorrectly stated that the "treats" were at the Shoremede Apartments. It was the Excelsior, whose manager can always be counted on to greet and treat the youngsters.

Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, January 26: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with Yolanda Haywood, M.D., Department of Emergency Medicine, The George Washington University Hospital, as guest speaker. Dr. Haywood is Director of the Violence Initiative at GW and an educator and spokesperson on domestic violence. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28: Illustrated slide lecture on schoolgirl art (samplers, silk embroidered pictures, paintings and other ornamental works made under the guidance of a teacher) using examples taken from the museum exhibition being shown through May 4. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. Free; reservations requested; phone 879-3241. 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, January 28: Community Meeting, Police Service Area 208. United Church, 20th & G Streets, N.W. 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 29: Community Meeting, Police Service Area 207. St. Paul's Episcopal Church dining hall, 2430 K Street, N.W. 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Through Saturday, January 31: Exhibition, Quilts from the 1997 DAR Museum Quilt Camp for Kids. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. Weekdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Sundays, 1:00-5:00 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

Sunday, February 1: "Inspiration from 19th Century Brides," lecture with slides on the evolution of the wedding dress in the 19th century. (Snow date, March 1.) Reservations required, 879-3241. \$15; \$10 additional guest. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4: Citizens Advisory Committee for the Second District Metropolitan Police monthly meeting. Second District headquarters, 3320 Idaho Avenue, N.W. (near Wisconsin and Newark Street). 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 5: Quilt Study Program, featuring 20 quilts from DAR collection, including rare 18th century wholecloth chintz quilt, several classical chintz quilts, a selection of early Maryland and Virginia quilts and much more. Reservations required, 879-3241. \$15. DAR Museum, 1776 D Street, N.W. 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 8: National Musical Arts Concert by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra, featuring selections by David Sampson, Robert Kurka, Samuel Barber, and Philip Glass. National Academy of Sciences, 2100 C Street, N.W. 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 8: Concert of Spirituals. St. Stephen Martyr Church, 2436 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Call 785-0982 for information. 3:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday, February 9-12: World Bank lunchtime concerts, featuring Mozart favorites and works by Brahms, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schubert, Ravel and Shostakovich. International Finance Corporation auditorium, K Street between 21st and 22nd Streets. Phone 337-3611 for program. 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 14: Used Book Clearance Sale, sponsored by West End Library Friends. West End Library, 24th & L Streets, N.W. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A regular meeting. Call 659-0011 for location and time. Election of new commissioner for Single Member District 2A02 will take place as well as other business.

Saturday, February 21: Concert, with Soprano Carmen Balthrop, along with Pianist Bradley Moore and a choir, celebrating African American History month. National Academy of Sciences, 2100 C Street, N.W. 5:00 p.m.

Through Friday, March 20: Exhibition, "Washington Through Two Centuries in Maps and Images," illustrating Washington's development through the past two centuries. Shown are reproduction paintings, photographs, lithographs and detailed axonometric maps, produced by Joseph Passonneau, Washington architect and engineer, along with Vitali Gevorkian and David Akopian. American Institute of Architects Gallery, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. Call 638-3105 for information. Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Pennsylvania House Tenants and Others Meet

On December 9, 1997, approximately 50 persons attended a meeting at St. Stephen's Parish Hall to discuss the takeover of apartment buildings in the area, primarily by George Washington University. Patrick Knowlton and David Alexander of the Pennsylvania House (2424 Pa. Ave.) conducted the meeting, which Knowlton said was attended by approximately 27 Pennsylvania House tenants. Concern was expressed that recent renovations and conversions of units to furnished apartments may have been done without proper permits and that some tenants may have been forced to move because of steep rent increases. A *GW Hatchet* article reported that 55 GW students live at Pennsylvania House and it is now considered part of campus hous-

ing. These students pay a housing fee to GW, not rent to management, the Potomac Apartment Group.

At a December special ANC meeting held to discuss funding for opposition to GW's proposed Health and Wellness Center, Maria Tyler, the ANC Commissioner for the single member district including the buildings at 2400 and 2424 Pa. Ave., said that if GW has a leasing agreement with Pennsylvania House for its students, they are violating the boundaries set by the campus plan.

Mr. Knowlton expressed concern that rents are so high for units other than those held by long-term tenants, that it's unlikely future permanent residents will move into the building. In addition to serving as dorm space and the home for about 40 long-term residents, the Pennsylvania House is being used by short-term tenants. He has tentatively scheduled a meeting for Pennsylvania House tenants for January 27 at 7:30 p.m. Call him at 463-6577 for details.

Mike Feshe, President, and Don Buzzelli, Secretary, of the 2400 Pennsylvania Tenants Association also attended the meeting. The apartment building at 2400 is in the process of being sold, but as of this writing, the sale has not been announced. Renaissance Development Corporation has been mentioned as a prospective buyer. Concern was expressed that so many students live at 2400 that there were not enough tenants interested in joining together to buy the building.

Marilyn Rubin, President, and Dorothy Miller, Vice-President, of the Columbia Plaza Tenants' Association were also present. Ms. Rubin noted that there were more GW students living at Columbia Plaza (2400 Va. Ave.) than non-students. Ms. Miller, who is also an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, noted that GW has taken over the Aston (1129 N.H. Ave.) as another off-campus dorm; others in the audience mentioned several other buildings more and more occupied by students and less by non-students.

The Foggy Bottom Diner

Kinhead's

By Jim Patterson

You just can't beat Foggy Bottom for restaurant diversity and value. I was reminded of this again during a recent visit to **Kinhead's**, 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue. For fresh seafood **Kinhead's** is THE place. The fresh seafood menu, adjusted daily, is composed of appetizers such as shrimp soup with roasted eggplant, \$8, and chicken, lime and tortilla soup, \$5. I enjoyed the delicious oyster stew with fennel, celery root, smoked bacon and cheese, \$9. This menu also offers dishes of shellfish (oysters, clams and shrimp) from \$10.

Regular menu appetizers include nine dishes with something for everyone ranging from New England Seafood Chowder, \$5.50, to \$7.50 for grilled squid. There are 12 seafood specialties such as Maine lobster roll, \$17, and traditional fish and chips, \$12. Suppose your dining companion doesn't want seafood? Not to worry—the menu offers affordably priced beef and poultry dishes for around \$13. The chef does an excellent job with the roasted chicken with Catalan potatoes, artichokes, olives and mushrooms.

When you eat at **Kinhead's** don't forget to leave room for the dessert. These are not just regular desserts, they are works of art elegantly served. I enjoyed the rich Bananas Foster during a recent visit. House-made ice cream, \$5, and assorted cheeses with dried fruit, \$8.50, are also on the menu.

Did I mention wine? I think **Kinhead's** has the most extensive and impressive wine list in Foggy Bottom. Take your pick from among dozens of domestic and imported wines. There is also full bar service for thirsty readers. Speaking of thirst, I think I'll have another cognac. See you at **Kinhead's** for happy dining!

(Comp. Plan from page 1)

time undergraduate students living off campus; (2) because of the magnitude of the problem, a breathing space be provided from further construction by GWU and, if appropriate, other universities, while this study is being undertaken; and (3) universities, in particular GWU, provide sufficient on-campus dormitory accommodation for full-time undergraduates.

Economic Impact Is Astounding

To help the city in this work, a preliminary study of the economic impact of GWU on the D.C. budget has been made, and it reveals astounding figures. The implicit annual subsidy to GWU because of its tax-exempt status is very conservatively estimated at more than \$40 million. Also: Many GWU students are not provided with on-campus housing and thus compete for off-campus housing in FB/WE and displace non-students who generally pay considerably more taxes; because of this, the cost per annum to D.C. is estimated at \$6 million. The increased purchase or lease by GW of properties off campus to accommodate burgeoning enrollments can

not help but swell this figure.

While universities are big business in D.C. and generate large economic activity, the majority of the benefits land outside the District. Are the educational benefits, while impressive, and what income the city derives from them commensurate with the costs of services (and subsidies) to universities? Probably yes for UDC; maybe no for others.

The Council Needs To Help!

The Council needs to recognize how various policies of D.C.'s elected or appointed leaders can either help or do tragic harm to neighborhoods. They must strengthen the protections so our city and especially our own FB can grow and prosper. Without neighborhoods like Foggy Bottom there is no city; without help, Foggy Bottom will become a dormitory, and who on earth wants to settle down in a dormitory? Certainly not stable, permanent residents who are the bedrock of any community.

(A related article, *The Becker Beat*, appears on page 2 of this issue.)

Seniors Enjoy Picturesque Thanksgiving

By John Graves

Over 470 Senior Citizens of the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area savored a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner served aboard the cruise ship *Odyssey III* as they enjoyed the gorgeous views from the Southwest wharf around Hains Point to Key

Neighborhood Group. Several provision houses provided all the necessary goodies which were courteously served by some kind people from the business community.

The *Odyssey III* is a giant of a floating restaurant with

southern Maryland native, Captain Chip Lee, at the helm. It is huge and the only one like it in the world. The owner has similar ships in Boston and Chicago, but none like this. It cost over \$7 million and the covering glass is 1-3/4" thick and each pane costs \$3500. They are washed every day. It takes reservations for two people or 600 who can enjoy the fine cuisine of the Executive Chef and Staff in their complete galley and excellent wine cellar. Prices are quite reasonable. It is docked at 600 Water Street down at the wharf where brochures are available and reservations can be made at 488-6000.

It is a pleasant experience for anyone, but on this warm sunny day the sights were spectacular. Our Thanksgiving was great, thanks to all those kind folks. Being old is not too bad, if you know the right people. I truly did not realize there were so many of the beautiful and historic sights of the Washington, Maryland and Virginia shoreline that I had not seen, especially from the water.



Bridge. As they passed Buzzard's Point they were saluted with a giant water spray of the D.C. Fire Department boat. It was sponsored by the IONA House and the Southwest

all the accoutrements of a gourmet dining room or the ballroom of a hotel. It is just short of a football field and presents the vision of an aircraft carrier. It has a permanent crew of 70 with a

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